

**Human Rights Commission Meeting
October 18, 2012, 7-9pm, Bangs Community Center**

Present: Reynolds Winslow, Emily Jung, Lois Raj, Liam Brodigan, Gregory Bascomb
Others: Deborah Radway

Old Business

- South Sudan/Update
 - Liaison with Amnesty International – Mohamed Elgadi
 - Flagbearer for Beijing Olympics
 - Separated from family, captured, ran away to refugee camp in Kenya
 - Adopted by two white parents in Syracuse, NY
 - Major abuse
 - Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act of 2012
 - There is national concern to stop this
 - Oil in Sudan
- HRC Brochure/Update
 - Greg
 - Almost complete, except for photos and commissioners' names
 - Do we want to include photos in brochure of commissioners, the chair? Group photo at the retreat?
 - Send photos to Greg via email
 - Reynolds, Liam, Lois, Kathleen, Emily, Greg – on the brochure
 - Ready to present at next meeting
 - However...
 - Commission recruitment – we need three more commissioners
 - So if brochure is published now, it would be considered “old” once new commissioners were appointed
- HRC Blog/Update
 - Deborah made change on website – HRC linked to main Amherst page under “Boards and Committee”
 - Kathleen is absent, no update
 - Blog still needs to be edited
 - Questions:
 - Who can post on blog? Do comments need review?
 - Comments not posted automatically?
 - Blog manager/master?
 - Whoever posts the event/issue could be the master of that blog article and approve all related comments
 - Commissioners = administrators of blog?
 - Reynolds will ask Kathleen about Van Jones blog
 - Everyone should check out Van Jones' website
- Affirmative Action Policy/Update
 - Kathleen and Leslie absent, Deborah has update
 - Policy has been thoroughly reviewed multiple times
- Recruitment Strategy Discussion/Leslie
 - Should Select Board and HRC together present to community about recruitment?

- Brochure display
 - Could help us with recruitment
- Ad in paper?
- Diverse commission

New Business

- Retreat; Fall or Winter – Discussion
 - Better to wait because we should address the full commission → Postpone to winter?
 - NO RETREAT ON OCTOBER 27th
 - Russ Vernon Jones – Facilitator
 - Could he help with recruitment?
 - Issues to discuss at retreat: recruitment, maintaining a full-board HRC
- Emancipation Amherst Proclamation – Event Discussion
 - Interfaith Council of Churches – assume responsibility for event because they are in charge of the church bells
 - There *are* other bells in town...
 - Deborah will talk with Town Manager
- Town wide MLK Town Event – Planning Discussion
 - Address Town Manager
 - Some ideas -
 - Next door at Grace Church (location does not matter), choir to perform, 70 people present, local speaker (maybe Van Jones), reception, musicians, kids to perform at celebration
 - How to encourage the public to attend event
 - Celebration on the 21st of January
 - Chamber of Commerce - Town manager
 - Businesses could afford to help make this event big
 - Subcommittee to review this
 - Leslie, Reynolds, and anyone else – bring ideas on paper to next meeting
- Black History Month Event – Planning Discussion
 - MLK Town and Black History Month discussion at next meeting
- Personal Sharing – Discussion
 - To get to know each other better
 - Reynolds shared today
- Student Commissioner's Report – Anderson, Jung, and Brodigan
 - Summit Meeting
 - Who should be involved?
 - Students for a Free Tibet, School Climate Control, C3, POCU
 - Meeting with the heads of the clubs to discuss Summit
- Coordinator's Report – Saulsberry
 - Leslie is absent, no update
- Announcements – Father Max Acuine from Haiti visits Amherst area 10/19-10/29
 - To visit with individuals and church
 - To get a better sense of education here by visiting with students
- Meeting Adjourned 8:53pm
Emily Jung/Deborah Radway, notetakers